

What is claimed is:

1. A microwaveable package comprising:

- a) a support member having an upper surface and a lower surface;
- b) a bottom web having an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface of the bottom web being adhered to the upper surface of the support member;
- c) a food product disposed on the upper surface of the bottom web; and
- d) a top web disposed on the food product;

wherein the top web is draped over the food product such that the top web substantially conforms to the shape of the food product; and

wherein the top web is sealed at its lower surface to the upper surface of the bottom web to form a seal at a location outside the periphery of the food product, the seal having a peel strength, before microwaving, of at least 4 pounds per inch, and a peel strength, after microwaving, of less than 2.5 pounds per inch.

2. The microwaveable package of claim 1 wherein the support member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyamide, 1,4- polymethylpentene, and crystallized polyethylene terephthalate.

3. The microwaveable package of claim 1 wherein the bottom web comprises:

- a) a sealant layer comprising a blend of:
  - i) between 60% and 90%, by weight of the sealant layer, of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, and
  - ii) between 10% and 40%, by weight of the sealant layer, of polypropylene; and
- b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, polyacrylonitrile, and polyester.

4. The microwaveable package of claim 1 wherein the top web comprises:

- a) a sealant layer comprising an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer; and

- b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, and polyester.

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5. The microwaveable package of claim 4 wherein the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer comprises ethylene/ 1-octene copolymer.

6. A microwaveable package comprising:

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- a) a support member having an upper surface and a lower surface;  
b) a bottom web having an upper surface and a lower surface, the lower surface of the bottom web being adhered to the upper surface of the support member;  
c) a food product disposed on the upper surface of the bottom web; and  
d) a top web disposed on the food product;

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wherein the top web is draped over the food product such that the top web substantially conforms to the shape of the food product; and

wherein the top web is sealed at its lower surface to the upper surface of the bottom web to form a seal at a location outside the periphery of the food product;

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wherein the top web comprises a sealant layer comprising an ethylene/alpha olefin copolymer, and the bottom web comprises a sealant layer comprising a blend of between 60% and 90%, by weight of the sealant layer, of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, and between 10% and 40%, by weight of the sealant layer, of polypropylene.

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7. The microwaveable package of claim 6 wherein the support member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyamide, 1,4- polymethylpentene, and crystallized polyethylene terephthalate.

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8. The microwaveable package of claim 6 wherein the bottom web comprises:

- a) a sealant layer comprising a blend of:

- i) between 60% and 90%, by weight of the sealant layer, of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, and
  - ii) between 10% and 40%, by weight of the sealant layer, of polypropylene; and
- 5       b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, polyacrylonitrile, and polyester.
- 9.       The microwaveable package of claim 6 wherein the top web comprises:
  - 10      a) a sealant layer comprising an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer; and
  - 15      b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, and polyester.
- 10.      The microwaveable package of claim 9 wherein the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer comprises ethylene/ 1-octene copolymer.
- 11.      A method of preparing a microwaveable package comprising:
  - 20      a) providing a support member having an upper surface and a lower surface;
  - 25      b) providing a bottom web having an upper surface and a lower surface;
  - 30      c) adhering the lower surface of the bottom web to the upper surface of the support member;
  - 25      d) placing a food product disposed on the upper surface of the bottom web; and
  - 30      e) draping a top web over the food product, in a vacuum skin packaging process, such that the top web substantially conforms to the shape of the food product; and such that the top web is sealed at its lower surface to the upper surface of the bottom web to form a seal at a location outside the periphery of the food product;

wherein the seal has a peel strength, before microwaving, of at least 4 pounds per inch, and a peel strength, after microwaving, of less than 2.5 pounds per inch.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the support member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyamide, 1,4- polymethylpentene, and crystallized polyethylene terephthalate.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the bottom web comprises:

- a) a sealant layer comprising a blend of:
  - i) between 60% and 90%, by weight of the sealant layer, of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, and
  - ii) between 10% and 40%, by weight of the sealant layer, of polypropylene; and
- b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, and polyester.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein the top web comprises:

- a) a sealant layer comprising an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer; and
- b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, polyacrylonitrile, and polyester.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer comprises ethylene/ 1-octene copolymer.

16. A method of preparing a microwaveable package comprising:

- a) providing a support member having an upper surface and a lower surface;
- b) providing a bottom web having an upper surface and a lower surface;

- c) adhering the lower surface of the bottom web to the upper surface of the support member;
- d) placing a food product disposed on the upper surface of the bottom web; and
- 5 e) draping a top web over the food product, in a vacuum skin packaging process, such that the top web substantially conforms to the shape of the food product; and such that the top web is sealed at its lower surface to the upper surface of the bottom web to form a seal at a location outside the periphery of the food product;

10 wherein the seal has a peel strength, before microwaving, of at least 4 pounds per inch, and a peel strength, after microwaving, of less than 2.5 pounds per inch.

15 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the support member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polystyrene, polyamide, 1,4- polymethylpentene, and crystallized polyethylene terephthalate.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the bottom web comprises:

- a) a sealant layer comprising a blend of:
    - 20 i) between 60% and 90%, by weight of the sealant layer, of ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer, and
    - ii) between 10% and 40%, by weight of the sealant layer, of polypropylene; and
  - b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group
- 25 consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, and polyester.

19. The method of claim 16 wherein the top web comprises:

- a) a sealant layer comprising an ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer; and

- b) an oxygen barrier layer comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of ethylene/vinyl alcohol copolymer, vinylidene chloride copolymer, polyamide, polyacrylonitrile, and polyester.

- 5 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the ethylene/alpha-olefin copolymer comprises ethylene/ 1-octene copolymer.

2003-04-04 10:40:00